

WASHINGTON, DC- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) worked successfully with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure that Lane Transit District (LTD) can provide shuttle service for athletes, spectators and media at the up-coming U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team trials. The final decision on the shuttle service was announced today.

There was concern that the shuttle service would not be available because, in January the FTA announced a new rule for public agencies providing bus charter service. The rule, which becomes effective on April 30th, puts new restrictions on when public transit agencies may provide charter service. However, there is a waiver from the rule for events of "regional or national significance" that would allow LTD to provide service for the Trials regardless of interest from private charter operators. Clearly the U.S. Olympic Trials is such an event.

"I spoke directly with the FTA Administrator to explain the great importance of the Track and Field Olympic Trials for the entire region. The City of Eugene, the University of Oregon, the Oregon Track Club, LTD, and the entire community have put together a world-class event," DeFazio said. "I am pleased with the announcement today that LTD will be granted a waiver to provide charter service for the Olympic Trials."

DeFazio is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit which has jurisdiction over the FTA. He has concerns with this new charter service rule and plans to continue to monitor its implementation.